GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2294
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2000
SAND STONE MINING IN MADHYA PRADESH
M. JAGANNATH

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale illegal sand stone mining is going on in forest areas of Shivpuri and other districts of Madhya Pradeshin violation of Supreme Court`s judgement in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to check this menace?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES

(SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL)

(a) & (b): Sandstone is a minor mineral defined under clause(e) of Section 3 of the Mines and Minerals(Development & Regulation)Act,(MMDR Act),1957, and,under Section 15 of the MMDR,Act,theState Governments have full powers to make rules in respect of granting mineral Concessions and regulating minor minerals. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that the State Government had issued instructions to all District Collectorsand Divisional Forest Officers to conduct joint inspections of all mining areas in order to ensure that no illegal mining activity takes place in forest area. In terms of the Certificate submitted jointly by the District Collectors and Divisional Forest Officers to the StateGovernment, no illegal mining activities are going on in forest areas of Shivpuri and other districts of Madhya Pradesh.

(c) Controlling of illegal mining falls under the purview of the State Governments. In order to strengthen the State Governments in this regard, the Government of India amended the MMDRAct,1957 in December,1999 and inserted Section 23(c) to the Act, delegating the power to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation, and storage of minerals to the State Governments.